Suicides by farmers

1866. SHRI MATILALSARKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of suicides by farmers in different States on economic grounds during 2003-04 and 2004-05 upto 31st December, 2004;

(b) the consequences of farmers agitation in Rajasthan during the period from August to December, 2004; and

(c) the steps taken by Government and also by the State Governments in curbing the background of suicides by farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Sugarcane farmer's problems in UP

1867. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to solve the problems of the Sugarcane Farmers of Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details of the assistance given to the sugarcane farmers of the State during 2004-05?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Central Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping Systems Areas (SUBACS) in sugarcane growing States including Uttar Pradesh for increasing the production and productivity of sugarcane. The scheme has been subsumed under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture along with other 26 schemes with effect from October, 2000 to provide flexibility to States based on local needs. Under the scheme assistance is provided for the transfer of improved technology to the farmers through field demonstrations, training of farmers, supply of farm implements, enhancing seed production, pest control measures, etc. Besides, frontline demonstrations are also organized through Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) on farmers fields to